

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2014-421-E - ORDER NO. 2014-963  
DECEMBER 2, 2014

IN RE: South Carolina Electric & Gas Company –        ) ORDER DETERMINING  
Request for “Like Facility” Determinations        ) “LIKE FACILITY”  
Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(1)        ) STATUS

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (“SCE&G” or “the Company”) for a determination that the replacement of certain segments of two lines constitutes the replacement of existing facilities with like facilities, and therefore would not constitute construction of major facilities for which a certificate would be required under the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act (“the Siting Act”), S.C. Code Ann. Sections 58-33-10 to 170 (Supp. 2013). The Company intends to replace an approximately 9.7 mile segment of its existing Canadys-Sumter 230 kilovolt (“kV”) Tie Line and approximately 30 miles of the existing St. George 230 kV Line with what they intend to be “like facilities” under the Siting Act.

According to the Company’s Application, with regard to the Canadys-Sumter 230 kV Tie Line, SCE&G intends to replace the existing wooden H-frame and steel lattice tower structures holding that line in its current right-of-way corridor with single-circuit, steel monopole structures to accommodate a larger conductor. The line will operate at the same voltage levels as the original lines, but with a higher capacity rating in order to

accommodate the additional power flows expected from V.C. Summer Unit No. 3, currently under construction in Jenkinsville, South Carolina. Additionally, SCE&G intends to remove the existing St. George 230 kV Line which is on single-circuit wooden H-frame and double-circuit steel poles, and replace it with two 230 kV lines on single-pole, double circuit 230 kV structures.

SCE&G notes that the two replacement lines will serve the same basic function, transmitting power between the St. George Switching Station and the Summerville Substation once V.C. Summer Unit No. 3 has begun commercial operations. The Company notes that these lines will allow the Company to remain in compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) Transmission Planning Standards. The Company further asserts that these projects will not result in any significant increase in the environmental impact of the facilities or substantially change their location. The Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) does not object to the Company’s requested determination.

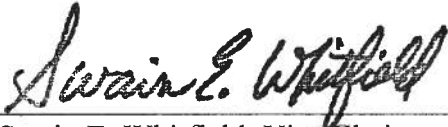
We have examined the record of this case, and we agree with the Company and ORS. Clearly, the proposed replacement facilities are similar in function and purpose to the presently existing facilities. Accordingly, we have determined that the replacement of each of the two lines would individually constitute “the replacement of an existing facility with a like facility” and would not constitute “construction of a major utility facility” for which a certificate would be required under the Siting Act.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
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Nikiya Hall, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Swain E. Whitfield, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)